

REQUEST FOR A RULING TO CORRECT HOMONYMY IN
NAMES OF THE FAMILY-GROUPS BASED ON *MYRMECIA*
(INSECTA) AND *MYRMECIUM* (ARACHNIDA). Z.N.(S.)2223

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When homonymy exists between family-group names based on similar but not identical names of type genera, the case is to be referred to the International Commission (1964, International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Art. 55a). A case of homonymy involves the family-group name MYRMECIINAE, in use both in Insecta (Hymenoptera) and Arachnida (Araneae).

2. *Myrmecia* Fabricius, 1804, is the type genus of the family MYRMECIIDAE Emery, 1877. This taxon (the name is in current use as a subfamily, MYRMECIINAE), the 'bulldog' ants of Australia and New Caledonia, consists of two genera and 66 described species (Brown & Taylor, 1970).

3. *Myrmecium* Latreille, 1824, is the type genus of the family-group taxon first named as MYRMECIDES C. L. Koch, 1851. Keyserling (1891) first used the name with the proper Latin termination as the subfamily MYRMECIINAE. Despite the fact that since 1897 MYRMECIINAE has been a senior subjective synonym of MICARIINAE Simon, 1897, it has never replaced the latter name which has been in wide use until recently when the type genus of the subfamily, *Micaria* Westring, 1851, was transferred to the family GNAPHOSIDAE leaving at least 15 genera belonging to this subfamily of the CLUBIONIDAE (Reiskind, 1969). The only family-group name among these remaining genera was MYRMECIINAE C. L. Koch, 1851, a senior homonym of MYRMECIINAE Emery, 1877. The prevalent application of this family name to the Australian ant taxon prompted the reviser (Reiskind, 1969, p. 179) to propose a new family-group name, CASTIANEIRINAE, for this subfamily as a substitute. Yet this name is a junior subjective synonym of MYRMECIINAE C. L. Koch and hence not valid. Since this family-group name is well established for the ant subfamily it is proposed here that the name MYRMECIINAE C. L. Koch be modified to MYRMECIUMINAE. This would have to be done under the plenary powers. While this is not a grammatically proper solution the new name is sufficiently distinct to avoid confusion and stabilise the nomenclature.

4. For the above reasons the International Commission is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the stem of the generic name *Myrmecium* Latreille, 1824 for the purposes of Article 29 is MYRMECIUM-;

- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Myrmecia* Fabricius, 1804 (gender: feminine), type species by designation of Wheeler, 1911 (p. 168), *Formica gulosa* Fabricius, 1775;
 - (b) *Myrmecium* Latreille, 1824 (gender: masculine), type species, by monotypy, *Myrmecium rufum* Latreille, 1824;
- (3) to place the following species names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *gulosa* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Formica gulosa* (specific name of type species of *Myrmecia* Fabricius, 1804);
 - (b) *rufum* Latreille, 1824, as published in the binomen *Myrmecium rufum* (specific name of type species of *Myrmecium* Latreille, 1824);
- (4) to place the following family-group names on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
 - (a) MYRMECIIDAE Emery, 1877 (type genus *Myrmecia* (Fabricius, 1804);
 - (b) MYRMECIUMIDAE (emend. under the plenary powers of MYRMECIIDAE) C. L. Koch, 1851 (type genus *Myrmecium* Latreille, 1824).

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